Ms. Kelly Hammerle, Manager  
National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (VAM-LD)  
45600 Woodland Road  
Sterling, VA  20166-9216


Dear Ms. Hammerle:

On behalf of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, I am writing in response to the call for comments on the Draft Proposal. We strongly oppose offshore oil development because it would irreparably harm the resource protections that we have in place, our coastal economy, and places our planet in further jeopardy.

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council brings together stakeholders representing Agriculture, At-Large Community members, Business/Industry, Conservation, Diving, Education, Recreation, Commercial and Recreational Fishing, Research and Tourism, plus seven local and state governmental jurisdictions. The Council is committed to supporting Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and promoting the mission of the National Marine Sanctuary Program to identify, protect, conserve and enhance the natural and cultural resources, values, and qualities of the National Marine Sanctuary System for this and future generations.

The MBNMS Advisory Council opposes the inclusion of any portion of the Pacific Coast Outer Continental Shelf Planning Areas in BOEM's Draft Proposed Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Program because the proposed offshore drilling plan threatens several National Marine Sanctuaries and the entire California coastal economy. Our healthy ecosystems, fisheries, agriculture, tourism and a myriad of industries and communities depend on a clean coast.

We also request additional public comment opportunities and hearings for coastal community input given that the existing opportunities are inadequate.

Sincerely,

Margaret (P.J.) Webb  
Chair, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council